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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Douglas R Hanscom Jones Tullar & Cooper P O Box 2266 Eads Station Arlington, VA 22202				
			EXAMINER CULLER, JILL E	
			ART UNIT 2854	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/13/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/538,854

Applicant(s)

KUMMET, ANDREAS

Examiner

Jill E. Culler

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 70-84, 86-89, 111-116 and 119-123 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 88 and 89 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 70-84, 86, 87, 111-116 and 119-123 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Interview Summary

1. During a discussion with applicant's representative, Douglas Hanscom, on August 29, 2007, it was determined that the subject matter of claim 1 was not directed to the embodiment of Fig. 12, as previously understood by the examiner, but rather to that of Fig. 11. Therefore, the response in this non-final office action has been directed toward that embodiment.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 123 is objected to because of the following informalities: Viewing the invention in light of the embodiment of Fig. 11, as agreed upon in the discussion cited above, the claim limitation of claim 123 that the blanket is on top of the filler material would appear to be impossible in the case that the filler material extends axially beyond the printing blanket exterior surface. In light of this discrepancy, claim 123 will not be examined on the merits at this time. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 70-84, 86-87, 113-114 and 116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,125,337 to Zeller

With respect to claims 70 and 74-76, Zeller teaches a printing blanket unit for a printing blanket cylinder, 1, 2, of a printing press comprising: a dimensionally stable support plate, 4, including a plate exterior surface with leading and trailing plate ends, see Fig. 1A; a printing blanket, 5, fastened on said plate exterior surface and having printing blanket ends spaced apart in a longitudinal direction of said printing blanket, and a printing blanket exterior surface, see column 4, lines 25-39; and a filler material, 7, 8, on at least a portion of said support plate and being embodied as a support element, said filler material engaging at least one end of said printing blanket and extending radially at least in part, past a virtual extension of said printing blanket exterior surface and extending from said at least one of said printing blanket ends in said longitudinal direction of said printing blanket. See column 3, lines 34-37 and Fig. 1A.

Zeller does not explicitly teach that the length of the extension is greater than 0.1 mm, greater than 0.4 mm, less than 2 mm or less than 5 mm.

However, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would recognize that the optimum length of the extension of the filler material in the longitudinal direction of the printing blanket would vary significantly dependent upon the printing application in which the blanket is to be used and therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to determine the optimum length through routine experimentation.

With respect to claim 71, Zeller teaches at least one folded end leg on at least one end of said support plate and including a fold zone at a juncture of said support plate and said end legs, said filler material being arranged at least partially on said fold zone at said at least one folded end leg. See Fig. 1A.

With respect to claims 72-73, Zeller teaches folded end legs at each of said support plate ends wherein said filler material is located on both of said folded zones of both of said folded end legs. See Fig. 1A.

With respect to claim 77, Zeller teaches said filler material has a filler material thickness and said printing blanket has a printing blanket thickness which is less than said filler material thickness. See Fig. 1A.

With respect to claim 78, Zeller teaches said at least one folded end leg defines an acute angle with said support plate. See Fig. 1A.

With respect to claim 79, Zeller teaches said at least one folded end leg is arranged at said leading end of said support plate of said printing blanket unit. See Fig. 1A.

With respect to claims 80-82, Zeller does not explicitly teach that said folded end leg at said trailing end of said support plate forms an opening angle of between 45 degrees and 150 degrees, between 80 degrees and 100 degrees, or between 120 degrees and 150 degrees with said support plate.

However, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would recognize that the optimum opening angle of the folded end leg with the support plate would vary significantly dependent upon the printing application in which the blanket is

to be used and therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to determine the optimum angle through routine experimentation.

With respect to claim 83, Zeller teaches said filler material extends at least partially past said fold zone on said at least one folded end leg. See Fig. 1A.

With respect to claim 84, Zeller teaches said filler material extends in said longitudinal direction of said printing blanket at a virtual extension of said printing blanket exterior surface. See Fig. 1A.

With respect to claim 86, Zeller teaches said filler material engages both of said ends of said printing blanket. See Fig. 1A.

With respect to claim 87, Zeller teaches said filler material extends around both of said fold zones. See Fig. 1A.

With respect to claim 113, Zeller teaches said filler material is one piece. See Fig. 1A.

With respect to claim 114, Zeller teaches said printing blanket is material different from said filler material. See column 4, lines 10-14 and lines 25-32.

Claim 116 is rejected with claim 70, from which it depends, as it adds nothing to the structure of the apparatus.

5. Claims 111 and 115 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zeller in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,351,615 to Kobler et al.

With respect to claim 111, Zeller teaches all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 70-84, 86-87, 113-114 and 116, except that said support plate is metal.

Kobler et al. teaches a printing blanket unit in which the printing blanket support plate is made of metal. See column 3, lines 40-45.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Zeller to have a metal support plate, as taught by Kobler et al. so that the blanket has a stronger support.

With respect to claim 115, Zeller teaches all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 70-84, 86-87, 113-114 and 116, except that said printing blanket is the same material as said filler material.

Kobler et al. teaches a printing blanket unit in which the printing blanket is the same material as a filler material. See column 3, lines 60-68.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Zeller to have the filler material the same as the blanket material, as taught by Kobler et al. so that the filler will have the same properties as the blanket.

6. Claim 112 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zeller in view of Kobler et al., as in the above rejection of claim 111 and 115, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,452,143 to Heinemann et al.

With respect to claim 112, Zeller and Kobler et al. teach all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 111 and 115, except that said printing blanket is multi-layered.

Heinemann et al. teaches a printing blanket unit having a multi-layered printing blanket. See column 6, lines 3-31 and Fig. 1.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the apparatus of Zeller to have a multi-layered printing blanket, as taught by Heinemann et al. in order to provide better printing characteristics for the blanket.

7. Claims 119-122 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zeller in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,090,319 to Weber et al.

With respect to claims 119-122, Zeller teaches all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 70-84, 86-87, 113-114 and 116, except for a forme cylinder in contact with said printing blanket unit on the printing blanket cylinder, at least one printing plate on the forme cylinder, and at least one interruption on a surface of said forme cylinder, wherein said filler material and said printing plate mutually support each other.

Weber et al. teaches a printing press having a printing blanket unit, 2, and a forme cylinder, 3, in contact with said printing blanket unit on the printing blanket cylinder, at least one printing plate on the forme cylinder, and at least one interruption, 6, on a surface of said forme cylinder, wherein filler material and said printing plate mutually support each other. See column 3, lines 38-62 and Fig. 1.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Zeller to include a forme cylinder with printing plate and interruption, as taught by Weber et al. so that the printing plate can be attached in a convenient manner.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 88-89 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With respect to claim 88, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a printing blanket unit as claimed, particularly wherein the filler material on one end of the printing blanket is not connected with the filler material on another end of the printing blanket.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed May 17, 2007 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jill E. Culler whose telephone number is (571) 272-2159. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jec

Jill E. Culler
Patent Examiner